

Here is the U.S. National Center for State Courts' list of the top ten court-related websites for 2005/06:

1. Indiana Supreme Court www.in.gov/judiciary
2. Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento www.saccourt.com
3. Supreme Court of Florida www.floridasupremecourt.org
4. 19th Judicial Circuit, Illinois <http://19thcircuitcourt.state.il.us>
5. Superior Court of California, County of Napa www.napa.courts.ca.gov
6. New Jersey Judiciary <http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us>
7. Courts Service of Ireland www.courts.ie
8. Dakota County District Court www.co.dakota.mn.us/courts
8. **Nova Scotia Judiciary** www.courts.ns.ca
8. Maryland Bankruptcy Court www.mdb.uscourts.gov
9. Alberta Courts www.albertacourts.ab.ca
10. Connecticut Judicial Branch www.jud.state.ct.us

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING THE TOP-10 COURT RELATED WEBSITES

Court Functionality

Court Tasks - Users should have the ability to perform court business on the Web without having to make a personal appearance at the courthouse. E-filing functionality earns a high rating.

Forms - Forms are available. Low rating if only available by call in, mail or fax; Medium rating if forms are downloadable; High rating if forms can be completed online.

Self Help - Easy to use instructions should assist users as to procedures and forms.

Financial Transaction - User should be able to pay fines and fees online using a credit card. A secured site is preferable and merits a high rating.

Indexing - The user should have access to a searchable database of court cases.

Web Functionality

Links - The court site should have links to other Web resources of interest to users. Subjective High, Medium and Low ratings are given in this area.

Aesthetics - The site should have good design, color and layout. Subjective High, Medium and Low ratings are given in this area.

Navigation - Users should be able to easily navigate the site. Specifically, Website content should be easily accessible, without the need for extraneous mouse clicks, and navigation buttons should be intuitive and conveniently placed. An internal search engine should enable users to locate desired information within the site. Subjective High, Medium and Low ratings are given in this area.

Finding the Site - The court site should be listed with multiple search engines so users can readily find the site if they do not have the address handy.

Extras

High Impact - A special rating is given if a court site is geared to the public, as opposed to attorneys or other users of court services. A special merit rating will also be given if a site is marketed to and particularly useful to frequent court customers such as attorney services or trust companies.

Recent Updates - The site should indicate when it was last updated, and the updates should be frequent.

Feedback - Users should be able to voice their opinions and comments about the site and its content. A Low rating is given for freeform contact with only the Webmaster; a Medium rating is given if the freeform contact appears to be a court representative; a High rating is given to sites containing feedback forms online.